P 1005309 WO
30.08.2005

CLAIMS

1. A fuel filter having a filter housing of an internal combustion engine in which water separated from the fuel may collect inside the filter,
characterized by the features
   - a liquid line (3) leads from an area of the filter housing, which is exposed to fuel and where water that is separated can settle out due to gravity, to a water collecting chamber (4) situated outside the filter housing,
   - an upper area of the water collecting chamber (4) is connected by a connecting line (5) installed there to a fuel delivery line (1) of the internal combustion engine.

2. The fuel filter according to Claim 1,
characterized in that
a delivery pump is provided in the flow path between the filter housing and the fuel delivery line (1).

3. The fuel filter according to Claim 2,
characterized in that
the delivery pump is designed as a venturi nozzle (6) provided inside the fuel delivery line (1) through which the connecting line (5) opens into the fuel delivery line (1).

4. The fuel filter according to Claim 2 or 3,
characterized in that
the delivery performance of the delivery pump is designed for a fuel stream to be delivered continuously, wherein at least the amount of water - at least the average amount generated - which is separated within the filter during operation of the fuel filter (1) can be transported back out of the filter housing without backing up.

5. The fuel filter according to any one of the preceding claims,
characterized in that
a closable outflow opening is provided in a bottom area of the water collecting chamber (4).

6. The fuel filter according to any one of the preceding claims,
characterized in that
a water level sensor (7) is situated in an upper area of the water collecting chamber (4).

7. The fuel filter according to any one of the preceding claims,
characterized in that
a water separation/retaining device is connected upstream from the connecting line (5), leading out of the water collecting chamber (4), in an area leading out of the water collecting chamber (4).